Justice Resource Update

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Justice Services

Bylaws Update

1. **Name Change**
   - From Justice Resource Advisory Committee (JRAC) to ***Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC).***
   - Aligns with similar agencies across the U. S.

2. **Legal review to align with bylaws with other advisory boards**

3. **Membership Updates**

Membership Updates

New BOC appointments:

1. Permanent/Stable Housing
2. Transitional Housing
3. Re-entry Organization
4. Faith Organization

Existing BOC appointments changes:

- Added “lived experience” requirement to community member appointment

Membership Updates, cont.

New appointments, not BOC appointed:

- Housing Authority
- Workforce Development (NC Works)
- Secondary/Alternative Education (ABTech, Superintendents)
- Healthcare Organization

Strategic Plan – 2-Year Focus

Focus Area	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Goal 4
Courts	Review and recommend programs to facilitate implementation of mental health/wellness alternatives to incarceration. Measure: # of alternatives identified for implementation.	Create guidelines for case processing. Measure: # of guidelines recommended/Percent of guidelines adopted.	Review arrest and court data by region, demographic, socio-economic factors and develop recommendations to reduce disparities. Measure: # of recommendations made	Review juvenile detention data and recommend engagement strategies to reduce juvenile detention length of stay. Measure: Annual Buncombe County juvenile detention length of stay
Behavioral Health	Identify barriers and provide recommendations to expand law enforcement utilization of the Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC). Measure: # of law enforcement drop offs at BHUC by agency.	Review in-patient bed utilization data and provide recommendations to address barriers to access. Measure: In-patient bed utilization rate by facility	Strengthen cross-agency collaboration and make recommendations to scale and coordinate data-driven alternative responses city and countywide. Measure: # of agencies participating in coordinated and compliant data sharing for alternative responses	

Strategic Plan – 2-Year Focus

Focus Area	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
Domestic/ Sexual Violence	Explore, develop, and improve protocols for connecting victims of domestic and sexual violence to services. Measure: # of protocols identified, developed, updated, or formalized.	Explore, develop, and improve protocols for connecting offenders of domestic and sexual violence to interventions and services. Measure: # of protocols identified, developed, updated, or formalized.	Identify and review available data and recommend strategies to reduce rates of child maltreatment, domestic violence, human trafficking, stalking, and elder abuse incidents. Measure: Year-over-year change in rates of reported child maltreatment, domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, stalking and elder abuse incidents.
Law Enforcement	Explore the implementation of a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and other diversion alternatives in Buncombe County. Measure: # of law enforcement agencies participating in discussion # of diversion alternatives identified for implementation.		

Jail Population Update

Lee Crayton

Strategy & Innovation

June 2, 2026

Overview of Current Situation

- The jail is currently operating beyond its operational *and* design capacity, and peak population typically occurs in late summer/early fall.
- The high population numbers this spring have been the result of several factors, including:
  - Implementation of House Bill 307/Sessions Law 2025-93, also known as Iryna's Law
  - Increasing bookings into the facility
  - Increasing lengths of stay

Buncombe County Detention Facility Capacity

- Operational Capacity = 470
  - The maximum number of people a facility can safely house based on its staff, available physical beds, and ability to provide required services and programs; this typically is between 10-20% of the facility's design capacity
  - When exceeded, the facility begins to experience symptoms of overcrowding as classification capabilities become compromised and safety risks become a concern, including increased incidents in the facility
- Design Capacity = 524 beds
  - The maximum number of people a facility's architects and planners originally intended it to accommodate
  - When exceeded, immediate administrative and safety crises are triggered – ex: double bunking in areas where the facility is not certified to do so – and legal considerations arise
- Male housing units have regularly exceeded operational capacity since January; design capacity has been exceeded numerous times since mid-March; double bunking began in May

Impacts on Staffing

- Physical and mental health
  - Long shifts lead to severe sleep deprivation, reducing officers' alertness and observational skills
  - Increased stress has direct impacts on physical health
- Work-life balance and morale
  - Unpredictable mandates and canceled days off make it incredibly difficult to maintain a healthy social and family life
- Safety
  - Tired and stressed-out staff have less patience, which can increase volatility and conflict with incarcerated individuals
  - Understaffed and exhausted teams are slower to respond to emergencies or violence within the facility
- Turnover
  - Burnout and people leaving the profession due to these life impacts create a continuous turnover cycle as remaining staff are asked to take on more, thereby creating more stress and burnout

House Bill 307 – Iryna's Law

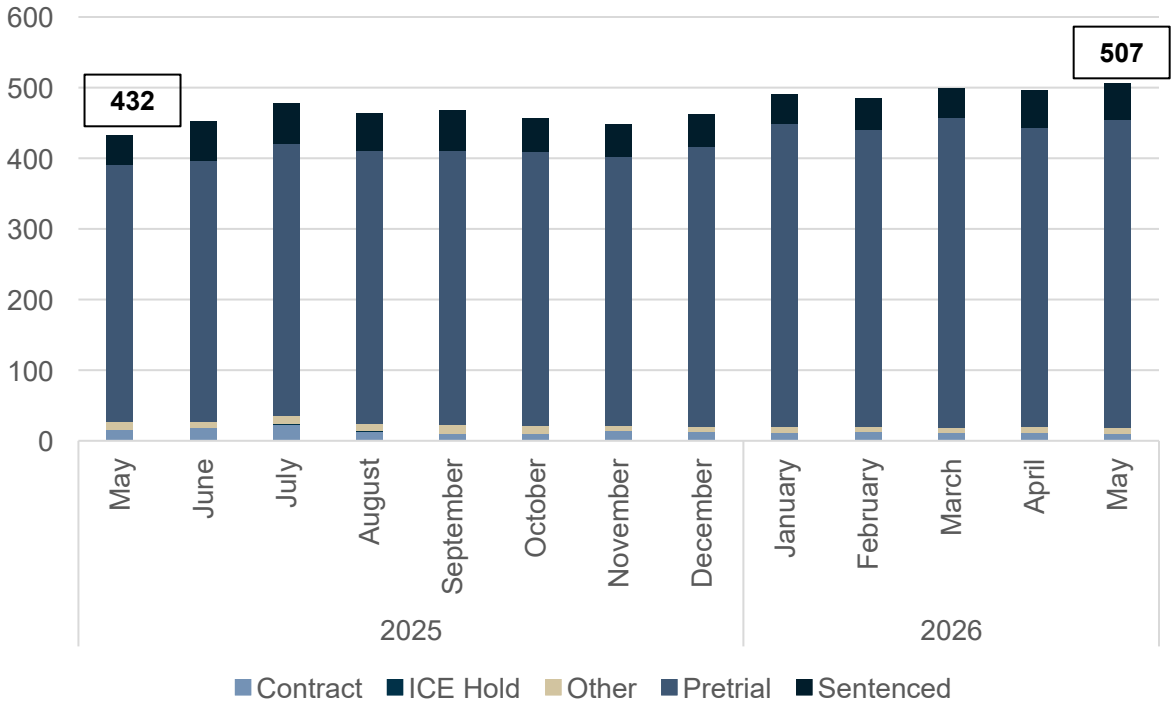
- Portions of this law went into effect on December 1, 2025
- Most relevant to the high jail population numbers are the changes to the pretrial release process:
  - Shifted to a rebuttable presumption of release
  - Changed the types of release permittable
    - Eliminated Written Promise to Appear
    - Unsecured bonds and custody releases are no longer permitted for certain violent offenses and for people convicted of 3 or more Class 1 Misdemeanor offenses in separate court sessions over the last 10 years
  - Limited the authority of who can set conditions of release
    - Expanded the list of violent offenses that a magistrate can no longer set release conditions for

Average Monthly Daily Population

May 2025 – May 2026

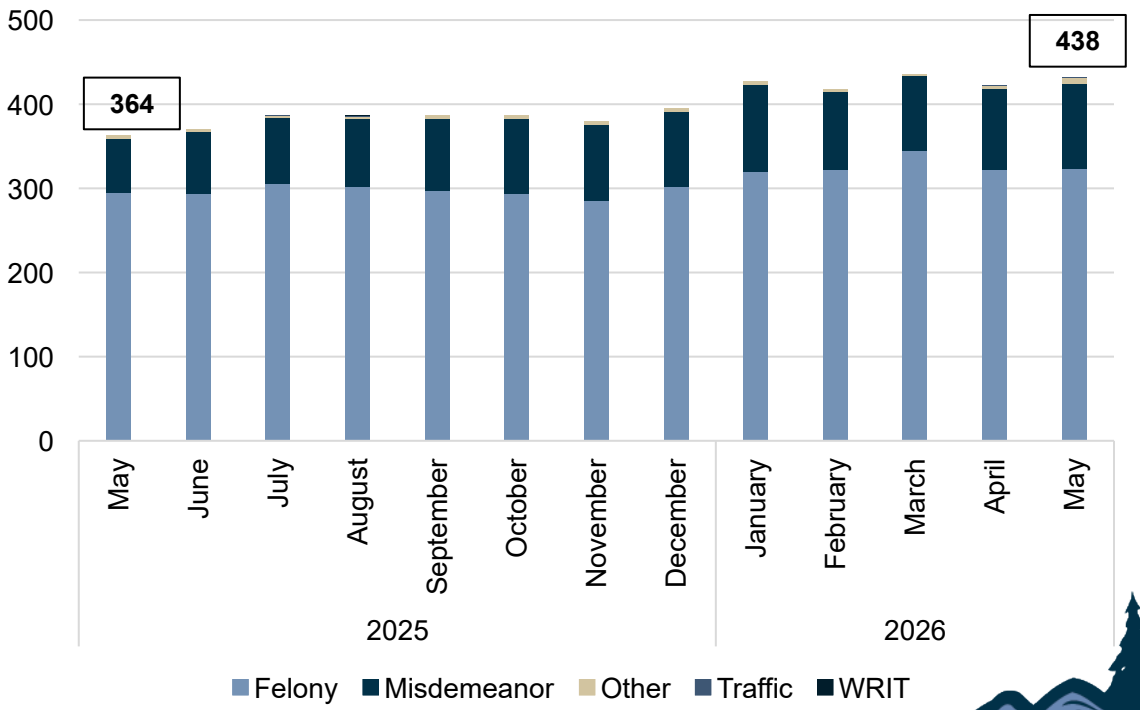
Total Jail Population

May 2026 **17% higher** than May 2025*



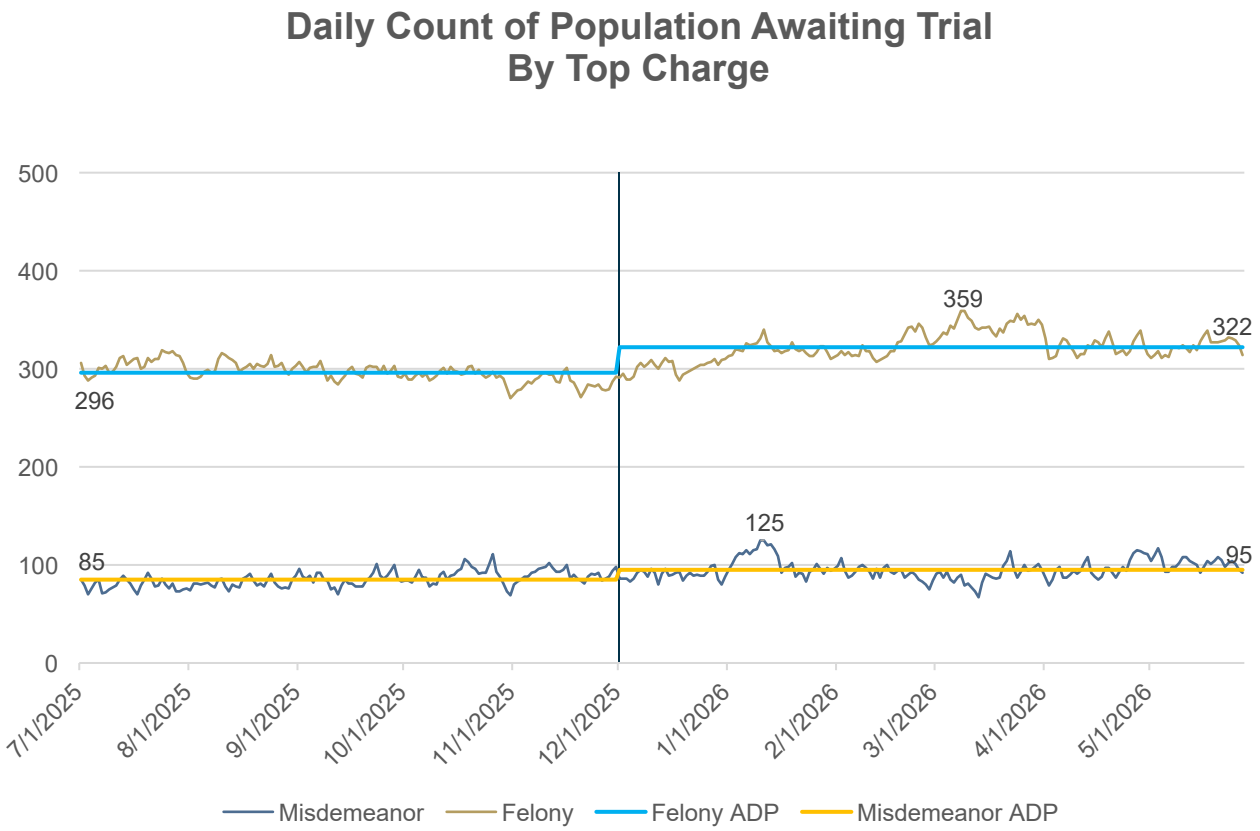
Population Awaiting Trial by Top Charge

May 2026 **20% higher** than May 2025*



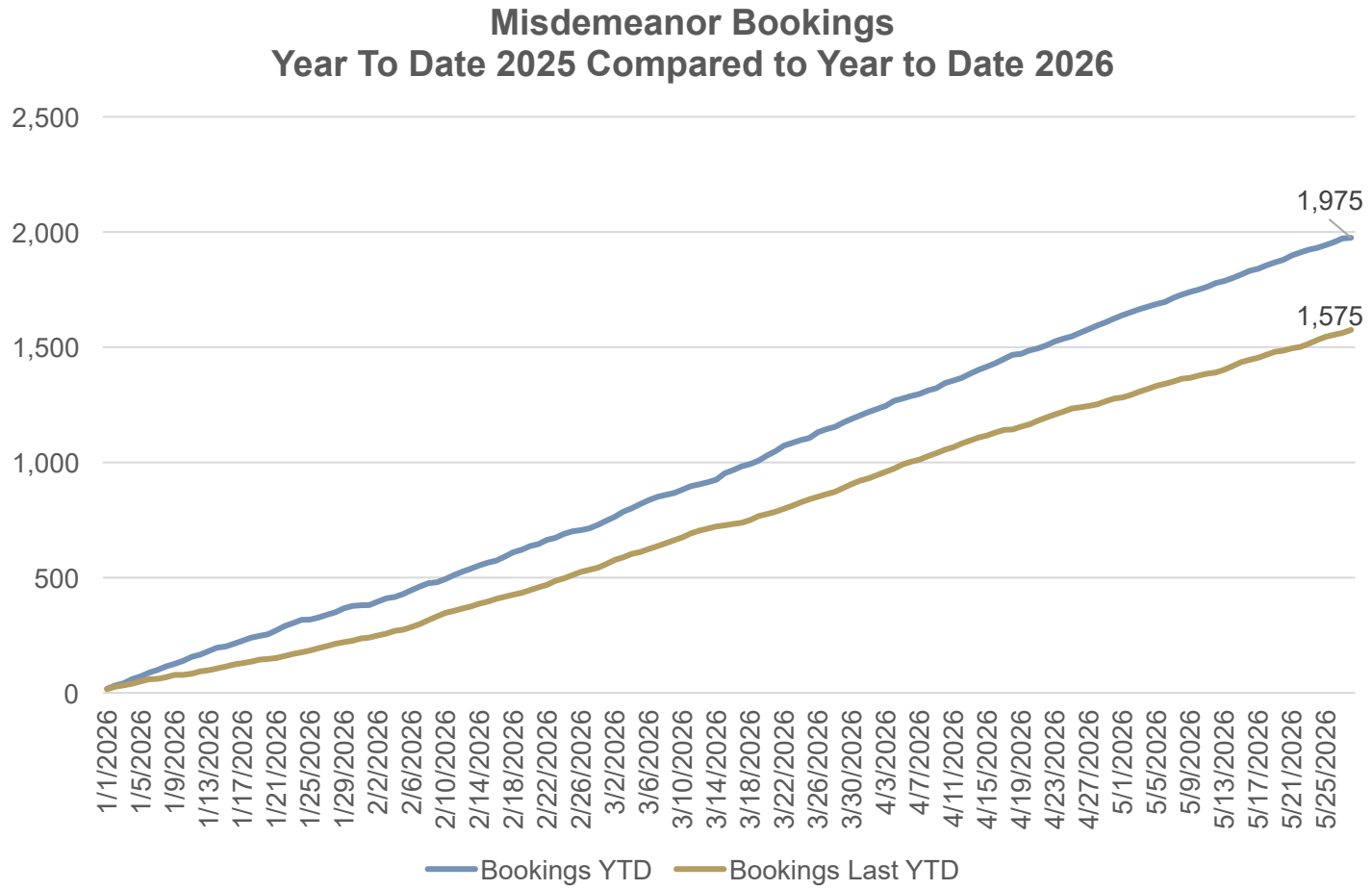
*May data includes the 1st through 27th

Daily Population



- December 1, 2025: Iryna's Law went into effect
- Average daily population (ADP) of felony and misdemeanor state pretrial populations have experienced increases
- Misdemeanor: 85 to 95 (+12%)
- Felony: 297 to 322 (+8%)

Jail Bookings

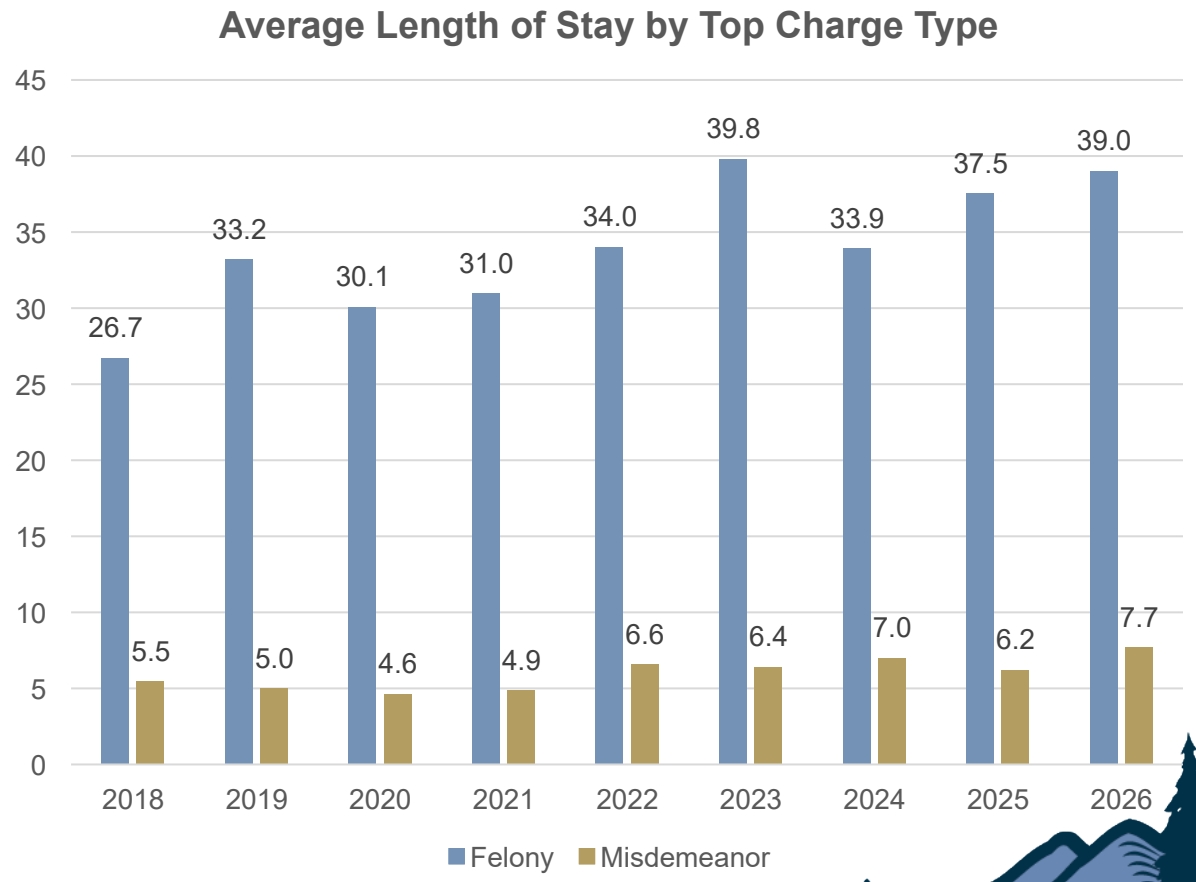


- Increasing bookings is a population driver
  - Misdemeanor bookings are **up 25%** (1,975 v. 1,575) year over year
  - Felony bookings are **2% lower** (1,385 v. 1,409) year over year
- Increases occurred across misdemeanor classes; greatest increases have been in lower levels
  - A1 misdemeanors: +7%
  - **1 Misdemeanors: +32%**
  - **2 Misdemeanors: +33%**
  - **3 Misdemeanors: +77%**

Length of Stay

Average Days in Custody

- Length of stay has been and continues to be a population driver
  - On average, people with felonies are staying more than a week longer than they did prior to the pandemic.
  - People with misdemeanor charges are staying approximately 2 days longer than they did prior to the pandemic.



Changes in Jail Releases

Release Reasons (January – April)	2025	2026
Released After Process	**18%**	**12%**
Secured Bond	**29%**	**31%**
Case Dismissed/Not Guilty	**4%**	**7%**
Other	1%	1%
Unsecured – Pretrial Services/PSSP*	**2%**	**0%**
Prison	7%	4%
Probation	3%	3%
Time Served	**8%**	**12%**
Transfer	9%	10%
Unsecured/Written Promise*	19%	19%

* As of December 2025, Written Promise is no longer a release condition. As of May 2025, PSSP no longer accepts felony charges.

Expect changes associated with HB 307 and the County's Pretrial Support Services Program (PSSP) have impacted the types of releases from the detention facility. Specifically:

- Expect to see a lower percentage of people released to PSSP
- Expect to see a lower percentage of people released after process or unsecured
- Expect to see a higher percentage of people release on secured bond
- Expect to see a higher percentage remaining in custody for the duration of their case (time served, case dismissed/found not guilty, and prison)

Biggest changes between 2025 and 2026 to date:

- ✓ Lower percentage of unsecured releases to PSSP
- ✓ Lower percentage released after process
- ✓ Higher percentage released secured
- ✓ Higher percentage released by case dismissal/found not guilty, released time served

Strategies to Address Population

- Reduce Bookings
  - Divert low-level misdemeanors - increasing law enforcement utilization of BHUC; expanding alternative responses throughout city and county; and exploring a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program
- Reduce Length of Stay
  - Increase efficiencies in case processing - create and implement case processing guidelines for the courts
- Moving individuals to other facilities
  - Continue to work with NC Department of Adult Corrections to move sentenced people to state prison as quickly as possible; seek temporary housing in other jails